



Capital budget proposals help State Parks make progress on deferred maintenance and revenue targets

The State Parks capital budgets proposed by the Governor, House and Senate for 2015-17 all help to reduce the parks system's \$470 million backlog of deferred maintenance. Specific projects in all three budgets also provide essential facility improvements to retain and expand the capacity for the agency to earn revenue. For comparison, total capital funding this biennium is \$59 million.

2015-17 Proposed Capital Budget Comparison at a Glance

Costs	State Parks	Governor	House	Senate
New Projects - State Construction Acct	88	79	51	57
Re-appropriations - State Construction Acct	8	6	8	8
Subtotal	96	85	59	65
WWRP	11	8	8	0
Totals	107	93	67	65

Note: Amounts may differ slightly due to rounding. Totals do not include requested spending authority for federal and local grants or State Parks' Parkland Acquisition Account.

The Governor's capital budget funds nearly 90 percent of State Parks' capital request. The Governor expresses his priorities as having the park system maintain current facilities and revenue. These closely reflect the agency's priorities, with funding differences mostly about project phasing.

The Senate capital budget also emphasizes maintaining current facilities and retaining and expanding earned revenue potential. It funds projects closely aligned with agency priorities and at funding levels consistent with agency estimates, though at a total of about \$28 million less than the Governor's proposal.

The Senate removes all funding for State Parks in the state's Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). However, the Senate's capital budget funds four WWRP projects through direct appropriation. The Senate also has a budget proviso that restricts agency options for land acquisition and prescribes specific timing and procedures for disposing of surplus land.

The House capital budget also largely follows agency priorities, though at a total of about \$26 million less than the Governor's proposal. It includes a smaller number of larger projects. In three cases, all funding for phased projects is provided in 2015-17. However, it will not be possible to complete these multi-phased projects in one biennium, so in practical terms the House budget contains \$10 million less for projects than is summarized on its bottom line. The House also modifies some project funding amounts, reduces several projects by 10 percent and creates a reserve pool account that can be tapped if project bids come in above available funding.

The House provides a slightly higher funding level in the WWRP than does the Governor and, unlike the Senate, funds WWRP consistent with the existing statutorily directed distribution.